Farming without use of agro-chemicals

3287. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether many farmers have been practicing farming without use of agro-chemicals and are getting record production;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are aware of a recent publication "Plenty for All" by Prof. S.A. Dhabolkar laying emphasis on use of solar energy and conservation of water with astonishing yields; and

(d) if so, the steps taken or being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) Farmers are raising crops with varying levels of plant nutrients. No data have been collected about the farmers not using agro-chemicals at all and, therefore, about the crop yields being obtained by such farmers. However, the long-term fertilizer experiments conducted by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research over last few decades have shown that the soil test based balanced and Integrated use of chemical fertilizers and organics give higher yields as compared to application of organics alone.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Government of India is aware of the publication "Plenty for All" by Prof. S.A. Dhabolkar. In this publication, the Author has laid emphasis on build up of soil organic matter, rain water harvesting, tapping of solar energy and some other Eco-friendly practices both for urban and rural population. Some of the researchable issues in these areas are being pursued by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research through their co-ordinated research projects on micro-nutrients/ organic matter decomposition/dry land agriculture and also through ad-hoc research projects.

Growth rate of foodgrains production during 1992-2000

3288. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the growth rate achieved in foodgrains production during 1992 to 2000, year wise;